SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2002

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce that Alex Thelland ZS1AHR, passed away peacefully in his sleep on 29 May 2002, after a long illness. Alex was 82 years old. Our sympathies and condolences go to his wife Peggy, his daughter Maureen, family and friends.

Alex was a member of the SARL for many years as well as a member of the Overberg Amateur Radio Club, ZS1OAR and whilst in Natal had the callsign ZS5ZA.

PAUSE

In the news today:

REGISTRATION OF CW EXAMINERS AND MODERATORS HAMNET I D CARDS NEW MEMBERS TIPS FOR LEARNING THE MORSE CODE

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio to sarlnews@hotmail.com. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in both Afrikaans and English.

Now for the news in detail:

REGISTRATION OF CW EXAMINERS AND MODERATORS

The term of office for existing CW-examiners expires at the end of this month,June 30. Individuals are invited to register at the SARL as CW-examiners as soon as possible. As from 1 July, 2002, only duly registered examiners will be permitted to conduct this test. Two examiners must be present during the course of a test.

The criteria to qualify as an examiner, are as follows: 1 SARL member 2 He/She must be a member of a SARL affiliated club; 3 He/She must have held a Class A for more than 2 years and have passed 12 wpm CW; 4 He/She must be

competent in CW and 5 The Council of the SARL will have to approve the appointment.

Insructions on how the CW test must be conducted as well as registration forms for prospective CW examiners, are available on the SARL Website.

NEW MEMBERS

The SARL welcomes the following new members have joined during the past week:

ZR1RVN Riaan van Niekerk ZR5EP Edmund Manderson ZS1AFE Rob Bareham ZS5APA Andre van Rensburg SP9RQM Boleslaw Halas ZR5TB Tony Buchly ZS6BXN David Stols

May you have a long and pleasant relationship with the SARL.

HAMNET I D CARDS

The Council of the SARL has decided not to change the Hamnet ID card. Should you have the old card, you need not take any action. Your old card is valid and can be used. Those who do not have a card please get in touch with Francois ZS6BUU via e-mail at francois@overflow.co.za

This also applies where you have an old card with an incorrect or changed call sign on the card.

To all Provincial Directors; your help will be appreciated in obtaining the necessary information from your local members and let me know by the end of June who needs a new card.

Please be aware, the I.D. card needs a recent photograph of you. Many, if not all of us, went through the issue of the new Drivers License ID card. That is the exact size of the photo we need for the HAMNET card. Should you still have some of these photos filed away somewhere, please let Francois have one with your CALL SIGN on the reverse for identification.

Should there be any queries, please contact Francois via e-mail or via landline at 011 679.5260 or via fax at 011 475.5946.

SPECIAL RSGB CONTEST

This weekend a special RSGB contest takes place. It commenced yesterday Saturday the 8th at 10:00 UTC and will run for 24 hours. Stations outside the Commonwealth must contact Commonwealth stations only.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BY RADIO AMATEURS ELSEWHERE

In most countries where there is a national amateur radio organisation there exists a branch of the organisation with volunteer members who are prepared to make their time and equipment available to provide communication for the safe running of an event or when disaster strikes and the normal modes of communication fail. To mention a few, in the USA it is ARES (Amateur Radio

Emergency Service, in Australia WICEN (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network) and here it is HAMNET.

Here follows some information on three incidents that occurred in the USA and the recognition given by authorities to the assistance rendered by the radio amateurs involved:

The legislature of the State of New York has formally recognized the more than 800 Amateur Radio operators from the Empire State who provided emergency communications following the World Trade Center disaster of September 11.

The resolution notes that amateurs expended more than 15 000 work hours of volunteer service for more than two weeks to serve agencies across the state that included the New York City Office of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. The resolution specifically cites Amateur Radio's role in staffing more than 30 shelters set up to house stranded air travelers and those displaced by the World Trade Center destruction. Amateur Radio HF links also enabled New York City officials to maintain contact with state agencies near the capital city of Albany when conventional telephone service was unavailable.

In the second event service teams in Colorado again have been called in to assist in the wake of wildfires where it seems that as soon as one major wildfire in Colorado has been brought under control, another one rages. ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM said: "Amateur Radio support of this incident has been nothing short of outstanding".

Fremont County ARES was activated, and amateurs staffed a Red Cross shelter set up to serve evacuated residents an the incident command post and a Fire Station. Amateurs also staffed the Red Cross headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Dozens of hams remained on the scene at week's end, and amateur support was expected to continue through June 8.

In the third instance Florida governor Jeb Bush has declared June "Amateur Radio Month" in the Sunshine State. In a proclamation issued May 22, the governor cited Amateur Radio's emergency communications expertise, its role in developing international relations and in rehabilitation of the disabled. Bush extended "greetings and best wishes" to all recognizing Amateur Radio as "a valuable communications resource" and payed tribute to Florida's amateurs.

TIPS FOR LEARNING MORSE CODE (CW) This is an excerpt from the Web page of the ARRL.

The purpose is to bring tips for learning the Morse Code together. Do go to the Web page for further information. 1. Start! Whether you use audio cassettes, CDs, computer software, or a partner to send and receive, you won't get anywhere until you get started. 2. As a small child learns first to crawl, then to walk, and finally, to run, you, too, must learn in steps. Learning Morse code (CW) properly requires both self-study, and the help of someone sending CW

to you. 3. Learn each character as a sound. Morse code is a language of sounds. Never write dots and dashes. 4. Repetition is the key to remembering anything, including Morse characters. Some folks master it in days, others in months. All who kept at it got it. 5. The Farnsworth Method is recommended. With the Farnsworth Method, you learn each character at 18 words per minute with large spacing in between characters. This has been proven to be the best method for long-range development. Once the characters are learned, copying speed is easily increased by decreasing the spacing between characters. 6. Practice, practice, practice. No matter if you learn quickly, or slowly, the key to learning is practice. With enough practice, just about anyone can learn Morse code. Sometimes, skipping a day or two of practice is helpful, and can get you back on track.

The article gives quite a number tips and a list of aids to learning the Code as well as a short history. Do go to the webpage at www.arrl.org.

SARLNEWS thanks all contributors, individuals, clubs and other organizations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations that so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav,ZS6BWN, George, ZS6NE, and read by……..from ……as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750 and 7082 kHz and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

At noon on Sundays the SARL President's net is on the air on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us.

Goodbye everyone.